

oversaw the nonpartisan staff in providing ethics advice and education, administered the Senate's financial disclosure program, modernized and redesigned the committee's website, and conducted investigations and enforcement of ethics rules, laws and standards of conduct. Beyond the Senate, Deb represented the committee at conferences and on councils around the country and abroad. In all these efforts, Deb brought her trademark dedication to rigorous accuracy and precision. On behalf of the members and staff of the Select Committee on Ethics, I thank Deb for her decades of service to our country and commitment to the U.S. Senate. I offer my sincere best wishes and gratitude to Deb and her family as she begins her retirement.

Thank you, Deb.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN E. HYTEN

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Gen. John E. Hyten on his retirement from the U.S. Air Force. I also want to extend my congratulations to his wife, Laura, and note the remarkable bond they share. Their partnership in life has enabled his success in uniform, and his achievements are truly theirs.

Across four decades of service, General Hyten has risen through the ranks to become one of the most respected voices in our military, and many in this Chamber rely on his deep knowledge and expertise. This is especially true on matters relating to space and nuclear deterrence.

I got to know General Hyten when he became a Nebraska constituent following his appointment to be the commander of U.S. Strategic Command in 2016. This was actually General Hyten's second tour of duty at Offutt Air Force Base, having previously commanded the 6th Space Operations Squadron there in the late nineties.

During his 3 years as the commander of STRATCOM, I was privileged to work closely with him, not just as the senior Senator from Nebraska, but also the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Strategic Forces subcommittee, which directly oversees STRATCOM's mission areas.

During this span, we witnessed a marked shift in the strategic landscape, with worrying trends with respect to adversary behavior in space and investment in nuclear arms greatly accelerating. This elevated the importance of STRATCOM's mission and meant that, as its commander, General Hyten was on the front line of some of the most daunting security challenges facing our Nation.

During his tenure, he played a key role in the Department of Defense's response to these evolving threats. As space transformed into a warfighting domain, his candid advice was invaluable in Congress reorganization of the Department of Defense's space enterprise, including the creation of the

Space Force and elevation of Space Command to a full-fledged unified combatant command.

He was also an extremely effective advocate for our Nation's nuclear forces, which continue to be the bedrock of our national security. As a vocal champion of nuclear modernization, he helped make the case for renewing the triad and broadening the modernization conversation to increase focus on nuclear command, control and communications—or NC3—systems, as well as National Nuclear Security Administration's nuclear complex.

He played an important part in drafting the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, which marked the first time since the end of the Cold War that an NPR occurred against a backdrop of growing nuclear threats and therefore had to confront the uncomfortable reality that Russia and China had not followed our lead in reducing nuclear stockpiles.

He explained the problem with his customary candor: "When we started de-emphasizing nuclear weapons, what did the rest of the world do? The rest of the world did exactly the opposite. So if we de-emphasize nuclear weapons, we're putting the country at jeopardy and we can never allow that to happen."

Those sage words are still true today and should continue to guide U.S. nuclear policy. They also reflect another of General Hyten's characteristics that I value greatly: his unwavering focus on the threats facing our Nation. A tireless advocate for a return of threat-based planning, he always endeavored to base his approach on the changing threat picture and to educate those around him about the activities of our adversaries.

When he was nominated to be the next Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I felt very strongly that he was the right leader, with the right expertise, at the right time. I knew he would bring all of the qualities that distinguished him as a STRATCOM commander to bear in his new role, and he did not disappoint.

As Vice Chairman, he continued to discharge his responsibilities with great professionalism and dedication, and his confirmation to the position also meant that the Nation could benefit from his leadership for 2 more years.

Sadly, that time is at an end. And while the 40 years of exemplary service Gen. John Hyten has rendered make this retirement well-earned, I hope he will continue to share his wisdom and counsel. I wish General Hyten and his wife, Laura, a wonderful retirement together and all the best in their future.

AFGHANISTAN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, the Biden administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan jeopardized our national security, empowered our enemies, and put thousands of innocent lives in jeopardy. But

as the situation devolved, stories emerged of heroic efforts to push back the Taliban's advance and save stranded Americans, allies, and Afghan partners from the clutches of one of the world's most dangerous terror organizations.

Today, I want to honor a group of unsung heroes who joined this effort from the home front. Team Blackburn is blessed to include a dedicated and tenacious group of caseworkers and personal staff who treat the needs of Tennesseans like those of their own families. During those chaotic weeks, these people fielded hundreds of panicked calls for help from and on behalf of Tennesseans who were trapped behind enemy lines. They used every resource at their disposal, leveraged every connection they could think of and worked more than a few miracles to bring those Tennesseans closer to home.

On behalf of the Volunteer State, I thank the following members of my staff who went above and beyond on behalf of the common cause of freedom: Elizabeth Kelly, Payton Scott, Kayley Russell, Heather Hatcher, Josh Knell, Jeri Wheeler, Dana Magnuson, Caroline Diaz-Barriga, Kim Cordell, Mac McCullough, Alexander Gonzalez, Grace Burch, Jay Strobino, John Clement, Edward Pritchard, and Emily Manning.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, the U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear the most anticipated abortion case in nearly 30 years when it considers *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in oral argument on December 1, 2021. This development allows us to consider the many people whose dedication to the pro-life cause has led us to this point. One of those people is former President Donald J. Trump. The pro-life movement would not be where it is today absent his advocacy for pro-life policies and for conservative judges.

In January 2016, Presidential candidate Trump said, "America, when it is at its best, follows a set of rules that have worked since our Founding. One of those rules is that we, as Americans, revere life and have done so since our Founders made it the first, and most important, of our 'unalienable' rights."

He continued, "Over time, our culture of life in this country has started sliding toward a culture of death. Perhaps the most significant piece of evidence to support this assertion is that since *Roe v. Wade* was decided by the Supreme Court 43 years ago, over 50 million Americans never had the chance to enjoy the opportunities offered by this country. They never had the chance to become doctors, musicians, farmers, teachers, husbands, fathers, sons or daughters. They never had the chance to enrich the culture of this nation or to bring their skills, lives, loves or passions into the fabric of this country. They are missing, and they are missed."

These words helped guide President Trump's actions in office as he advocated for pro-life policies both domestically and abroad. Domestically, President Trump fought to defund Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers from receiving Federal funding. He prohibited such entities from receiving title X funding and permitted States to prohibit them from participating in Medicaid as well. In 2018, President Trump issued a rule requiring health insurers to specify whether plans cover abortion. He also issued rules to protect religious objectors and moral objectors from the Department of Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate. In addition, the President established a new Conscience and Religious Freedom division of the Office for Civil Rights to protect healthcare providers who object to participating in abortions.

President Trump's commitment to the unborn was just as strong abroad. Just days after his inauguration, President Trump ended Federal funding of abortion overseas by reinstating the Mexico City Policy, which prohibits nongovernment organizations receiving U.S. aid grants from performing and promoting abortions overseas. He directed the Secretary of State to implement the ban on taxpayer funds for overseas abortions across most U.S. global health programs through his Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy.

In addition, President Trump also defunded the United Nations Population Fund, a program long tied to China's forced abortion one-child policy. To further underline this, the Trump administration in 2020 declared to the United Nations that abortion is not a human right and signed the Geneva Consensus Declaration, where 33 nations joined together to reaffirm the value of unborn life. Finally, in January 2021, the Trump administration and called for the Chinese Communist Party to immediately end its system of forced abortions.

In addition to his work within the executive branch, President Trump also showed his commitment to the pro-life cause by nominating constitutional conservative and originalist judges to the Federal judiciary. He nominated three originalist Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court: Justice Neil Gorsuch in 2017, Justice Brett Kavanaugh in 2018, and Justice Amy Coney Barrett in 2020. More broadly, President Trump nominated 234 new article III judges who share this commitment to upholding our Constitution as written.

As the pro-life movement advances, it is important for us to recognize how we got here. Former President Trump deserves praise for all his administration did over the past 4 years to advance the cause of the unborn. I am grateful for that work and recognize the tireless advocacy of the Trump administration to protect both women and their babies.

RECOGNIZING THE INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, for many years, thousands of members of the Intercessors for America—IFA—have been devoted to prayer and fasting in the name of protecting the unborn and of ending abortion. The IFA was founded in 1973 in an era when our Nation experienced turmoil within the political, moral, and traditional values that are the cornerstone of our Nation.

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its divisive landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, legalizing abortion and shocking the majority of Americans. IFA has worked since then to mobilize our Nation to pray for the protection of innocent life and to find unity among the cultural conflicts in our country. Today, IFA is a national organization of millions of like-minded people who are steadfast in praying for God's support and guidance for our Nation's executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

I thank the members of IFA for their dedication, prayers, and fasting in support of the sanctity of life. Their work has helped increase awareness for the pro-life movement and its overarching goal to defend the unborn. It is the decades of prayer and hard work of so many pro-life advocates that has led us to this moment in history in which the Supreme Court will be hearing oral arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. This case, which focuses on the constitutionality of a Mississippi law that bars abortion after 15 weeks, could reset the abortion issue and return it to elected leaders, who are more directly accountable to the people than Federal judges.

Today, I recognize and pay tribute to the role of the IFA in the nearly 50-year fight to protect innocent life in the womb. I also join with the IFA in praying for the members of our Supreme Court, who are now preparing to hear the *Dobbs* case. May God grant each Justice wisdom for the task and mercy for the unborn.

TRIBUTE TO SAM BROWNBACK

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, it is an honor to pay tribute to my fellow public servant Sam Brownback of Kansas. During his service both as Governor of Kansas and as a U.S. Senator, he advocated tirelessly for the right to life. More recently, during the last administration, he served as the U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, fighting for the free exercise of religion abroad.

After a couple years in the House of Representatives, Ambassador Brownback represented Kansas in the Senate from 1996 to 2011. He came to the Capitol with a background similar to mine. I served as the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce prior to coming to the Senate, and Ambassador Brownback served as Kansas's

Secretary of Agriculture before coming to DC.

Upon joining the Senate, Ambassador Brownback consistently supported pro-life legislation and voted in defense of the sanctity of life. Through his 15 years in the Senate, he supported pro-life legislation including the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, and the Hyde amendment.

This support for unborn life continued when the people of Kansas elected Sam Brownback to be their Governor, a position in which he served from 2011 to 2018. As Governor, he signed numerous laws protecting unborn human life, including a measure that made Kansas the first State to ban dismemberment abortions. Furthermore, during his tenure, Kansas passed laws restricting funding to abortion providers and banning sex-selective abortions, among many others.

Sam Brownback's steadfast efforts paid off. By the time he became an Ambassador in 2018, Kansas had become the second most pro-life State in the Nation, as ranked by the Americans United for Life. In fact, the number of abortions in Kansas dropped by nearly 30 percent, a testimony to the success of his policies promoting a culture of life.

But his efforts did not stop there. Upon his confirmation in 2018 as the U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, he continued the fight to protect life and stand up against injustice abroad. He worked hand-in-hand with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in condemning the Chinese Communist Party for its regime of forced abortions and sterilizations.

Throughout his long and commendable career in public service, Ambassador Brownback has shown a remarkable commitment to the sanctity of life. As the Supreme Court prepares to hear the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case, I am pleased to rise to recognize leaders in the pro-life movement who have advanced the cause to this point. Ambassador Brownback is definitely among those leaders for his many years as a champion for life.

TRIBUTE TO SEAN DUFFY

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hear oral arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case, I am taking time to recognize leaders in the pro-life movement who have helped bring us to this point. Today, I pay tribute to former Congressman Sean Duffy, who represented the pro-life values of the Seventh District of Wisconsin for five terms from 2011–2019.

Throughout his time in the House, Representative Duffy remained unwavering in his commitment to the sanctity of life. Whatever pro-life issue